

THE KABUL TIMES

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Some countries present false picture of Afghanistan in UN meetings, Fitrat

KABUL: Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat, the deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, said the other day that some parties in the UN meetings presented a false picture of Afghanistan.

Fitrat made the remarks in response to the obsessive remarks of Pakistan's representative Munir Akram at the UN Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, claiming that the Pakistani Taliban operates along the hypothetical Durand Line and carries out attacks on Pakistani troops and government institutions from there.

UN decisions must be independent of major powers' policies, he urged, emphasizing that Afghanistan has always been making efforts to engage with the international community.

Addressing certain biased nations, Fitrat highlighted that some countries are impeding the progress of the Islamic Emirate in various fields, underscoring that the United Nations must display courage and make fair decisions.

He emphasized the importance of the United Nations remaining impartial and independent from the policies of powerful nations to facilitate Afghanistan's integration into the global community and secure its seat at the United Nations.

"If the decisions of the United Nations are influenced by countries involved in Afghanistan's conflicts, hindering the country's interaction with the international community, then the issue lies with those nations, as Afghanistan has fulfilled its responsibilities in this regard," he added.

During a recent UN meeting on Afghanistan, Vasily Nebenzia, the Russian diplomat and the current Permanent Representative to the United Nations, also called for constructive and meaningful interaction with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

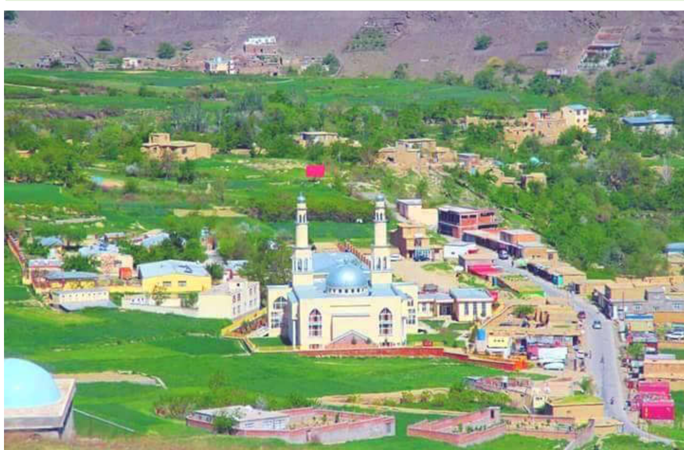
Also, Fu Cong, the Chinese Permanent Representative and ambassador to the United Nations has urged the Security Council to lift sanctions imposed on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and emphasized the importance of continued engagement with the current system.

The Kabul Times



Indian companies seeking investment in Panjshir's mines, governor

After the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate and ensuring countrywide security, a large number of foreign investors have become interested in investing in various sectors in Afghanistan.



KABUL: A number of Indian investors met with Hafiz Mohammad Agha Hakim, the Governor of Panjshir, expressing interest in investing in the province's mines, the provincial governor's press office said in a statement Wednesday.

Presenting their investment plan, the Indian businessmen working in the gemstone sector said: "We are interested in investing in Panjshir's mines and we would encourage other Indian companies to invest in Afghanistan's various sectors."

Meanwhile, Hafiz Mohammad Agha Hakim welcomed the businessmen's plan and assured them that the provincial government is ready for any cooperation with domestic and foreign investors.

After the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate and ensuring countrywide security, a large number of foreign investors have become interested in investing in various sectors in Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Balkh Intentional airport's parking lot, terminal to be constructed

KABUL: Construction work on a parking lot and terminal worth 73.2 million Afghani has been kicked off at the Mawlana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi International Airport in Balkh province, the state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported Wednesday.

Mullah Adam Bilal, Director General of the airport, said that the project will be implemented by the Ministry of



Transport and Civil Aviation within 14 months.

The parking lot and terminal of 18,200 square meters of land will be constructed on the northwest side of the airport, in accordance with the standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and global criteria, and all necessary facilities and amenities will be considered, he said.

The Kabul Times

Over 480 cadets join national police after professional training in Kandahar, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Emirate said Wednesday in a statement that a total of 486 newly graduated cadets have joined the country's national



police after completing a period of ideological, professional, tactical, technical, and public relations skills training in Kandahar province.

Mawlavi Matiullah Farooqi, commander of the provincial training center, congratulated the graduates and advised them to fulfill their duties in the light of Islamic principles, treat people well, preserve and strengthen the Islamic system.

After receiving certificates during a ceremony, the police cadets vowed to serve the people and tighten their security everywhere in the country, the statement said.

It is to be noted that a total of 263 newly graduated cadets have joined the country's national police after completing two months of ideological, professional, tactical, technical, and public relations skills training in Parwan province on Monday.

The Kabul Times

Humanitarian programs, aid should not be politicized, spokesman

KABUL: Abdul Rahman Habib, the spokesman of the Ministry of Economy, said the other day that humanitarian programs and aid efforts should not be politically exploited. Reacting to the 83% budget cut of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Habib urged that this decrease will have a negative impact on aid programs for people in need worldwide. "The purpose of humanitarian aid is to support individuals in emergency situations, natural disasters, or those suffering from economic hardship. According to humanitarian laws, neutrality and respect for human dignity are fundamental principles of these aid efforts. Therefore, organizations and countries should not use them as a tool for political objectives," the spokesman urged.

A few days ago, Marco Rubio, the U.S. Secretary of State, officially announced the 83% cut in USAID's programs following a six-week review, stating that cutting 83% of the agency's programs, amounting to tens of billions of dollars, is not in line with U.S. national interests and in some cases, could be detrimental to the country. Rubio emphasized that the remaining programs will continue under the supervision of the U.S. State Department.

This comes as various organizations in Afghanistan continue to express concerns about the humanitarian crisis caused by poverty and climate change. The USAID has been providing humanitarian and development assistance to various countries for decades and has played a constructive role in numerous international projects worldwide.

The Kabul Times



Germany mulling how to engage with Islamic Emirate, Bruno Kahl

KABUL: Bruno Kahl, Germany's President of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), said the other day that his organization is collecting information from Afghanistan, which will help the Germany in deciding how to engage with the Islamic Emirate.

In an interview with a German media outlet, Bruno Kahl said that the agency is working on how to establish engagement with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA).

"We as intelligence services must obtain the information that's important so that this federal government can make the appropriate decisions, and we do get from the particular region as well, and then the federal government old or new has to decide how it wants to deal with the Islamic Emirate," he said. This comes after the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has repeatedly expressed its willingness to maintain positive and mutually beneficial relations with the world country, particularly with Germany. **The Kabul Times**



Lightning kills one, injures five in Paktia

GARDIZ: As a result of a lightning strike one person was killed and five others were injured, in Paktia province, officials confirmed.



Nisar Ahmad Najat, head of the Disaster Management Authority of Paktia province said that Wednesday that the incident occurred at 9:00 PM last night in the Sajank village, of the Sayed Karam district of Paktia province.

"The victims of the incident were members of one family, with the deceased being a 14-year-old boy," he said.

This is while Paktia province has been witnessing heavy rains since yesterday.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Security forces duty-bound to pursue criminals anywhere

A seven-year-old child went missing for nearly 45 days in the country's northeastern province of Badakhshan, where security has been reportedly sure.

Osman, whose family has been said to have not been involved in family or personal disputes with others, was found dead after about a month and a half in the Argo district of the province, where his clothes were not torn, while his body had been cut open from the stomach. Osman's body was found at a hillside in his native village, near a mountain, and handed over to his family.

His family was said to have belonged to a cultural family as his father was reportedly a schoolteacher. His neighbors confirmed that the victim's family had no personal conflicts with others.

Osman's family told local media that they did not know the reason for their child's murder, asking the authorities to clarify the circumstances of the incident.

About the innocent toddler's death, there has been no exact report on whether the incident was a case of abduction, a traffic incident, or something else. Also, the public should be informed about the ruthless incident. The heartbreaking incident, which was the biggest of its kind in the province, has shocked the residents, as it is still not clear whether it was a kidnapping case, enmity, or any other fierce incident.

In other provinces of the country, similar incidents have happened with the perpetrators who had either been kidnappers or had enmity with the victims, were arrested by the police and brought to law. In Kabul, Herat, and some other provinces of the country, similar incidents have occurred, with the main reasons disclosed to be either abduction, traffic incidents, family disputes, or any other motives.

Although, according to reports, local security authorities in Badakhshan province assured that investigations into the case are ongoing, the family of the victim criticizes why they failed to find the slaughtered body of their child. On the other hand, it should be made clear whether the reason behind the incident was a smuggling attempt to pull out the kidney, heart, liver, and other main parts of the slain child for sale or something else.

The country's security forces, particularly the police, should be cautious about any vicious incidents and prevent any subversive activities, whenever reported.

Any failure by the security forces would be a blow to their prestige and even undermine the authority, capability, and power of the country's security forces and spread a rumor among the public that they are not or cannot ensure the security of the Afghan citizens. The local security forces should be held responsible for their failure to thwart such brutality and pressured to investigate the tragic incident and find the main suspects behind the horrible crimes. The central government should replace them with a professional, experienced, and eligible unit in case of the continuation of similar crimes in the province. The same measure should also be taken in other provinces of the country to ensure the security of the area residents.

Likewise, the area residents and the entire people should cooperate with the security forces to identify the main culprits and bring them to justice and ensure the country's security better than ever.

Measles; more likely to be severe among malnourished children

As measles cases continue to spread in some provinces in Afghanistan, the spotlight is on the prevention of the highly contagious disease.

While vaccines are widely regarded as the first line of defense, it has been suggested that nutrition plays a role in reducing the severity of the disease.

If one is healthy, it is almost impossible for them to be killed by an infectious disease, in modern times – because we have nutrition and access to medicines, but if we do not have nutrition and no access to medicines, more will be killed by any infectious disease.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has reported that the organization is witnessing an alarming surge in measles cases at MSF-supported facilities in Balkh, Herat and Helmand provinces.

In a press release published yesterday, MSF said its teams in Afghanistan have reported a surge in measles patients at three MSF-supported hospitals since January.

It says as measles is endemic in Afghanistan, such a high number of cases so early in the year is cause for alarm.

According to the organization's report, at least one child in Afghanistan has died from measles every day so far in 2025, according to data MSF staff have collected at the Mazar-e-Sharif Regional Hospital, Herat Regional Hospital, and Boost Provincial Hospital in Helmand.

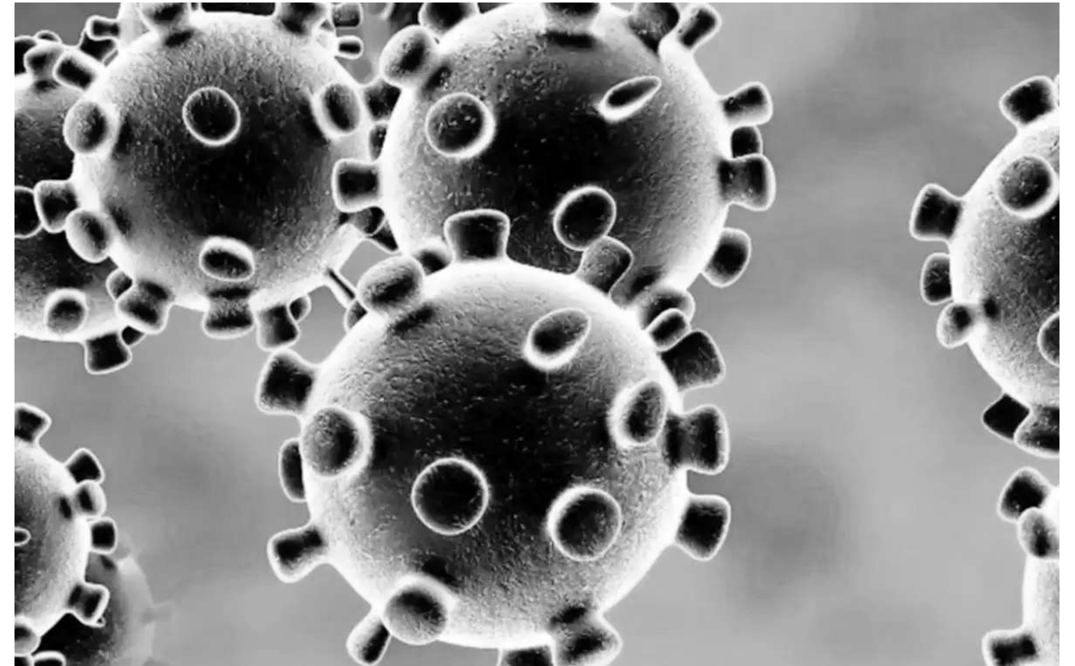
This is almost three times as many deaths as were witnessed during the same period last year.

"These are preventable deaths.

Measles can be a deadly disease, particularly for children with underlying health conditions like malnutrition or congenital heart defects.

It can also be prevented with a vaccine though, but the immunization coverage remains low in Afghanistan," says Mickael Le Paih, Country Representative with MSF.

Community level rapid and targeted vaccination in



the districts most affected by ongoing outbreaks would help reduce the number of measles cases and in turn free up hospital beds for children with less preventable conditions.

At the three hospitals across Afghanistan where MSF teams are supporting measles detection and treatment, we have seen 4,799 children suspected of having measles in the first eight weeks of 2025.

This includes both complicated measles cases (25 per cent) that require admission to hospital, and less severe cases (75 per cent) requiring outpatient treatment, according to the report.

The report says at Herat Regional Hospital, MSF has launched an emergency response to the high number of complicated measles cases that they are treating – expanding their measles isolation ward from 11 beds to 60 beds, hiring additional staff, and tapping into emergency medications.

There were 664 patients admitted in the first eight weeks of 2025, a 180 percent increase in the number of cases as compared to 2024.

At Boost Provincial Hospital in Helmand, the organization's team has seen 1,866 suspected measles cases in the first eight weeks of the year, which is a 369 percent increase in the number of cases as compared to the same period in 2024.

At Mazar-e-Sharif Regional Hospital, MSF has treated 1,499 suspected measles patients so far alongside the Ministry of Public Health, a 35.6 percent increase in the number of cases as compared to 2024.

"We are dedicating additional resources, but we are already running out of space for patients suffering not just from measles, but seasonal illnesses as well," says Le Paih.

The measles outbreak is taking its toll on children and parents.

It requires collective decisive efforts to implement targeted vaccinations and enable wide access to measles treatment kits.

Medics say that most who are getting sick are people who are malnourished.

There is poverty in Afghanistan, which is a kind of food desert.

Measles still is a very, very lethal disease in foreign countries and developed countries where there is low malnutrition.

The best thing that medics are suggesting is to keep oneself healthy – it is very, very difficult for measles to kill a healthy, well-nourished person as nutrition is critical for overall disease prevention.

Almost all medics agree that measles is more likely to severely affect children who are extremely malnourished. Based on reports, as high as 10 percent of children die from measles in some developing countries, and it has been reported as high as 25% to 50% in a study of malnourished African infants.

The lack of quality medical care in many areas of the developing world also contributes to disease severity.

The vaccine is still effective, but in some cases, an additional dose may be required. Studies have shown that children who are malnourished with vitamin A deficiency and living in low- and middle-income countries have more severe illnesses with measles infection, face an increased risk for death and blindness, and take longer to get better.

It is worth mentioning that there is no treatment for measles beyond supportive care.

However, in low and middle-income countries, whose morality is greater than 1%, the World Health Organization recommends vitamin A (two doses) to reduce the severity of measles and prevent complications.

Vaccination should be given whether an individual is malnourished or not, as it is the only way to prevent measles. **Safi**



Dialogue and diplomacy playing key role in addressing issues

Dialogue and diplomacy are vital tools in resolving con flicts and fostering harmony worldwide.

Strategic diplomacy plays a crucial role in international relations and conflict resolution.

By employing tactful and nuanced dialogue, diplomats can navigate complex situations and find common ground.

This method of communication is essential in maintaining global stability and preventing escalations of conflict.

The power of diplomacy and dialogue cannot be understated in building a more harmonious global community.

Through these practices, nations and individuals can find ways to coexist and collaborate despite differences. This results in a stronger, more peaceful, and united world.

Dialogue transcends ordinary conversation, serving as an empathetic platform for exchanging ideas and viewpoints.

It necessitates active listening, a genuine desire to comprehend others, and an openness to various perspectives.

Such an approach cultivates mutual respect and understanding, which helps to dismantle walls of mistrust and prejudice.

In true dialogue, every participant's voice is considered important, ensuring that everyone feels heard and valued.

This inclusivity is crucial in building a harmonious environment where diverse opinions can coexist.

By valuing each voice, dialogue lays the groundwork for enduring peace and cooperative relationships.

The essence of dialogue lies in its ability to bring people together, bridging gaps created by differences.

It encourages an environment where disagreements can be discussed constructively, without resorting to conflict.

This fosters a culture of collaboration and problem-solving, essential for progress in any community.

Diplomacy is a sophisticated skill that centers on negotiating and shaping international relations with subtlety and skill.

It requires an in-depth understanding of various cultures, values, and perspectives, aiming to identify mutual interests and solutions.

Diplomats excel in handling complex matters, employing tact, patience, and strategic insight.

These professionals operate mostly out of the public eye, yet their influence is far-reaching.

Their expertise in mediation and conflict resolution is crucial in maintaining global harmony.

The role of a diplomat is instrumental in forging agreements that contribute to international peace and stability.

The impact of effective diplomacy can be seen in the resolution of conflicts, the formation of alliances, and the promotion of international cooperation.

Their work not only resolves immediate issues but also lays the groundwork for long-term relationships between nations.

In essence, diplomats play a pivotal role in shaping a more interconnected and peaceful world.

Dialogue and diplomacy are essential skills that have remained important throughout history, yet they continue to evolve.

These skills are vital in tackling the complex challenges of our time.

Through fostering understanding and cooperation, they help create a more peaceful and prosperous world.

Effective dialogue is a cornerstone of diplomacy, enabling nations and individuals to navigate conflicts and misunderstandings.

It involves listening, empathy, and the ability to articulate one's viewpoint respectfully.

Diplomacy, on the other hand, is the art of negotiating and finding common ground, often in situations where interests diverge.

By mastering the art of dialogue and diplomacy, we can address the varied issues facing our world today.

This includes resolving conflicts, building alliances, and promoting mutual understanding.

In doing so, we lay the foundation for a world where peace and prosperity are achievable for all.

Fida Mohammad



The paradox of digital age; connectivity or isolation?

Human beings are inherently social creatures.

From the beginning of civilization, humans have lived in communities, forming relationships with family, friends, and society.

Their nature demands interaction, companionship, and shared experiences.

However, the 21st century, often referred to as the "Age of Communication," has created an unexpected paradox—it has distanced humans from their social instincts rather than strengthening them.

Despite having access to advanced communication tools, people today experience more loneliness and isolation than ever before.

The primary reason behind this growing issue is the uncontrolled and purposeless use of technology and electronic devices.

Instead of fostering real-world connections, these tools have contributed to the weakening of natural human interactions.

One of the defining features of the modern era is the widespread use of the internet and social media. Today, approximately one in every three individuals actively engages with online platforms.

These digital spaces were initially designed to bring people closer, allowing them to communicate instantly regardless of geographical boundaries.

However, instead of strengthening relationships, excessive dependence on technology has led to emotional and social detachment. Many individuals now spend more time interacting with their devices than with their loved ones.

Instead of engaging in meaningful conversations with friends, parents, spouses, or children, they immerse themselves in virtual activities.

The convenience of digital communication has, in many cases, replaced face-to-face interactions, leading to a decline in the depth and quality of human relationships.

The social fabric that once depended on physical presence, verbal communication, and emotional connections has been significantly altered.

While technology has enabled virtual interactions, it has also created an illusion of connectivity.

People may feel connected online, but in reality, they often experience a sense of emptiness and isolation.

Electronic devices and digital platforms have become a dominant part of daily life. From social media scrolling to video calls and instant messaging, the modern individual is constantly engaged with screens.

Unfortunately, this engagement comes at the cost of real-world relationships.

Instead of enjoying shared moments with family and friends, many people prioritize their devices. Meals, family gatherings, and friendly meetups, which were once filled with laughter and deep conversations, are now often disrupted by constant phone use.

The habit of checking notifications, replying to messages, and consuming digital content has become a barrier to meaningful social interactions. Rather than serving as a tool for unity, technology has, in many cases, led to social fragmentation.

The emotional warmth of human connection has been replaced by digital exchanges, which lack the depth and authenticity of face-to-face communication.

There is no doubt that technology has facilitated communication across distances.

It has enabled people to stay in touch with loved ones, collaborate professionally, and access information instantly. However, this convenience has also led to a deceptive reality—people believe they are socially active when, in fact, they are becoming increasingly isolated.

Virtual interactions often lack emotional depth.

A text message cannot replace the warmth of a hug, the sincerity of a face-to-face conversation, or the comfort of human presence.

Over time, reliance on digital communication can lead to emotional detachment, weakening relationships and reducing the quality of social interactions.

While technology has brought undeniable benefits, its overuse has contributed to the rise of loneliness and social isolation.

The modern individual must recognize the importance of balancing digital engagement with real-life connections.

Instead of allowing technology to dictate social behavior, people should make conscious efforts to prioritize personal interactions.

Spending time with family, engaging in meaningful conversations, and participating in real-world activities can help restore the lost sense of social connection.

The key to a fulfilling life lies in maintaining a balance—embracing technology for its advantages while ensuring that it does not replace genuine human relationships. The digital age should be an era of true connectivity, not a period of silent isolation.

Mukhtar Safi



New townships built for refugees in southern Afghanistan

Since last year, when the forced expulsion of Afghan families from Pakistan began, the Afghan government has taken comprehensive measures in all areas to accommodate the returning refugees.By the order of the Islamic Emirate's leadership, townships are being established for returning refugees on 28,000 acres of land in nine provinces of Afghanistan to address their housing needs.In the three southern provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, and Zabul, the government is constructing townships for refugees on 10,000 acres of land, with some of these projects already underway.

The Director of Urban Development and Housing in Kandahar province, Mawlavi Abdul Mateen, stated that work has begun on constructing a township on approximately 1,000 acres of land in the province.

According to him, this township is located in Daman district, 45 kilometers away from Kandahar city, and all necessary facilities have been considered in its design.The Director further mentioned that two other townships will be built in other districts of Kandahar.

A refugee who has returned from Pakistan to Kandahar expressed his struggles and gratitude towards the government for constructing a township for their shelter. Mohammad Yousuf, a returnee in Kandahar, told The Kabul Times that he is currently living in a rented house in the city and cannot afford both rent and providing for his family.

He said, "I am very happy. I returned from Pakistan empty-handed and had nothing. I live in a rented house, and I earn just enough to pay the rent.

We are very grateful to the government. From the first day until now, they have treated us with great respect. We hope they will continue to support us in the future."

In neighboring Zabul province, the government has started the construction of a township on 2,000 acres of land.

According to a press release from the Zabul provincial office sent to The Kabul Times, this township, covering 2,000 acres, is designated for 5,000 refugees. The statement further mentions that the township, named Sheikh Mati Township, will have all the necessary facilities for the refugees.

Officials emphasize that the government is addressing all issues faced by refugees in Zabul province. Local officials in Uruzgan province have also announced that a township for refugees returning from Pakistan will be built on approximately 2,000 acres of land in the province's capital, Tarinkot.During the groundbreaking ceremony for the township, Uruzgan Governor Mawlawi Enayatullah Shuja told the media that this township is being constructed in the Chahgi area of Tarinkot city and that its development has officially begun.

The spokesperson for Afghanistan's Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Mohammad Kamal Afghan, told The Kabul Times that 28,000 acres of land have been allocated across Afghanistan to provide shelter for refugees.

Meanwhile, several refugees who have returned from Pakistan to Zabul and Uruzgan provinces expressed their appreciation for the government's efforts, saying they never expected such assistance.

A returnee in Zabul, Shamsullah, said, "We were forcibly expelled from Pakistan. Our homes and everything we had were left behind. We came here, but we cannot even provide for our families. We are grateful to this government. If this system didn't exist, we wouldn't receive any help.

No matter how much we worked in another country, it wouldn't benefit us.

Here, we will work for our own country."

Similarly, a refugee who returned from Pakistan to Uruzgan province also complained about housing difficulties and said that if the government builds a township for them, their shelter problems will be resolved.

Abdul Khaliq said, "I am living in a single room without a door.

I wandered around the country and finally found a place.

We request the government to provide us with a place to live. Our livelihood is in the hands of Allah."

According to the latest report from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in 2024.

The organization cited economic challenges, lack of healthcare services, and domestic issues as the main reasons for migration abroad.**Ehsanullah Wolasmal**



Afghan migrants should be treated well and returned fairly

Migration for the Afghan people has become a headache. Every day, we have heartbreaking reports about their situation in other countries, particularly in the neighboring countries.

Millions of Afghan migrants, mostly undocumented, are living in other countries, notably Pakistan and Iran, where they are facing harsh and brutal behavior by police officials.

Since the establishment of the Islamic Emirate in mid-August 2021, foreign countries, particularly Afghanistan's neighbors, have harshly treated Afghan refugees and politicized the issue of migration, unfairly using it as leverage to put pressure on the Islamic system to reach their goals.

It is clear that migration and leaving one's original homeland have been part of human history.

Humans have naturally been forced to leave their homelands and seek refuge in other, safer places over time for various reasons. Some may leave their homelands due to natural disasters, others for business and personal interests, and others for education, beliefs, and other reasons.

If we focus on the ancient civilizations, we find that they were mostly built on the shores of the oceans, and this shows that ancient humans moved in groups when the water course was diverted or even dried up.

Afghans also have a long history of migration.

From time to time, Afghans have been forced to either move their homelands from one place to another within the country or to go to distant countries of the world due to wars, poverty, destitution, and foreign invasions.

Foreign invasions have not only destroyed the governments of our time but also forced our capital and brains to flee.

Foreign oppression and exile also forced figures like Ibn Sina, Jalaluddin Balkhi, and Sayyid Jamaluddin Afghan to settle in other countries, who now consider them their people.

Unfortunately, Afghans are currently living under various threats, hardships, and humiliation in neighboring and other European countries.

Those countries that had the honor of hosting us have ruined this honor with their inhumane treatment.

Even their hard-earned wealth was taken away, their houses were looted in the harsh winters and cold, their houses were bulldozed, and they were expelled despite having legal documents.

On the other hand, tens of thousands of Afghans have returned to their homelands since the Islamic Emirate regained its sovereignty.

The Afghan government has also repeatedly called on Afghans living in neighboring and other countries to protect their assets in the country, protect their homes, and prioritize their own country instead of being humiliated in foreign countries.

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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
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Afghan cycling team honored for achievements

The Afghanistan Cycling Federation, in collaboration with the Herat Provincial Directorate of Physical Education and Sports, has honored a 30-member national cycling team for their remarkable achievements.

These cyclists successfully completed an 1800-meter route from Khorramshahr to Chabahar in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Their participation in this challenging ride showcased their endurance, skill, and commitment to representing Afghanistan on international platforms.

In addition to their achievements abroad, the cyclists also took part in the Cross-Country Cycling Championship held in Herat.

Their participation in both events was a testament to their dedication to the sport and their relentless efforts to improve Afghan cycling standards.

Officials from the Afghanistan Cycling Federation praised the athletes for their hard work and resilience, acknowledging the challenges they faced during their journey.

The federation emphasized the importance of supporting Afghan cyclists as they continue to make strides in both national and international competitions.

During the ceremony, members of the cycling team expressed their gratitude for the recognition, stating that such encouragement motivates them to train harder and aim for greater success.

They also highlighted the need for more investment in cycling infrastructure and training opportunities in Afghanistan.

The event in Herat not only celebrated the accomplishments of these athletes but also served as a reminder of the potential Afghan cyclists have on the global stage.

With continued support from sports authorities, the cycling community hopes to see further participation in international events and increased development of the sport within Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Cycling Federation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting cycling in the country and providing more opportunities for Afghan cyclists to compete at higher levels. **The Kabul Times**



Ireland cancels scheduled matches against Afghanistan over budget issues

The Ireland Cricket Board has announced that it will not be able to host several planned matches against the Afghanistan national team due to financial difficulties.

According to a report by Cricinfo, Warren Deutrom, the Chief Executive of Cricket Ireland, confirmed that budgetary constraints forced them to make this decision. He emphasized that the issue is temporary and stems from funding limitations.

The report also highlighted that Ireland has a packed schedule this year, with multiple series and tournaments already planned. Given these commitments, the board decided to cancel its scheduled matches against Afghanistan.

The decision, as per the sources, was made purely for financial reasons and is not related to political matters.

Afghanistan and Ireland have developed a strong cricketing rivalry over the years, frequently competing in bilateral series. The cancellation of these matches is a setback for both teams, particularly Afghanistan, which relies on international fixtures to strengthen its cricketing presence.

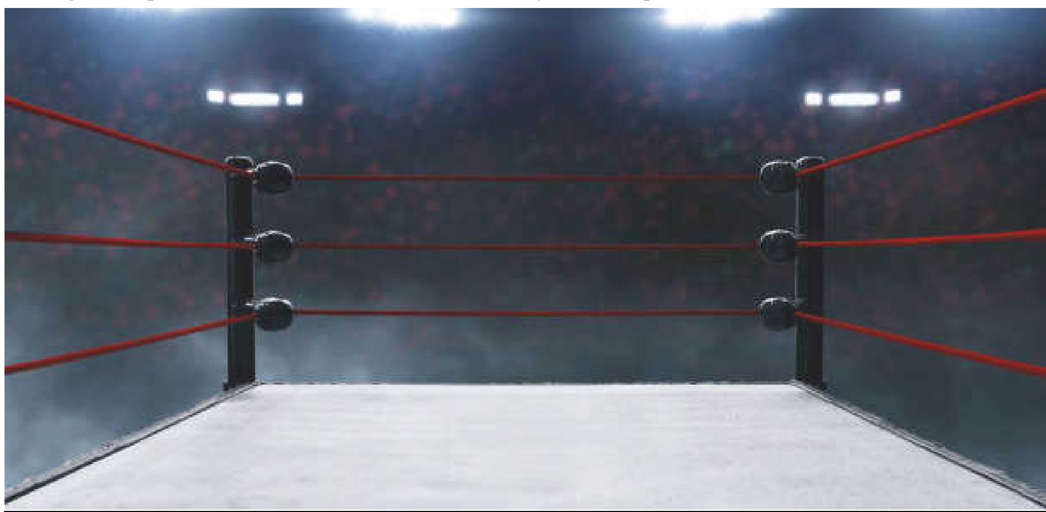
Despite this setback, both teams are expected to face each other in upcoming ICC tournaments or future bilateral series when financial conditions improve.

The Kabul Times

Former Afghan wrestler Ghami Omarzai Passes away at 42

Former Afghan wrestling champion Ghami Omarzai passed away Wednesday, March 12, after battling cancer. He was 42 years old. Omarzai was a well-known figure in Afghanistan's wrestling community. He represented the national wrestling team for nearly three years, showcasing his skills and dedication to the sport. Throughout his career, he gained recognition for his strength, technique, and sportsmanship, earning the respect of fellow athletes and fans. His passing is a significant loss for Afghanistan's sports community. Many wrestlers and sports officials expressed their condolences, remembering him as a talented and hardworking athlete who contributed to the country's wrestling legacy. His former teammates and coaches highlighted his commitment to the sport and his role in inspiring younger athletes. The wrestling community and his loved ones mourn his untimely death, emphasizing the impact he had both on and off the mat. His contributions to Afghan wrestling will be remembered, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations of athletes. Omarzai's funeral was attended by family, friends, and members of the sports fraternity, all paying their final respects to the late athlete. His loss is deeply felt by those who knew him, and he will be remembered for his dedication to Afghan wrestling.

The Kabul Times



'Ball in Russia's court,' top US diplomat says after ceasefire talks with Ukraine

The top US diplomat hailed Tuesday as a "good day for peace" after American and Ukrainian officials met face-to-face for the first time since last month's Oval Office fray between President Donald Trump and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"Thanks to @POTUS's leadership and under the gracious hospitality of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, we are one step closer to restoring durable peace for Ukraine," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

"The ball is now in Russia's court," he added in a post on X.

Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz headed a US delegation that met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak. The meeting was held in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah, where Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and National Security Advisor Mosaad bin Mohammed al-Aiban represented the Kingdom.

A joint US-Ukrainian-Saudi statement was released after the hourslong meeting, where the US announced the resumption of intelligence sharing with Kyiv and the lifting of the suspension of weapons shipments, while Ukraine expressed readiness to reach a 30-day ceasefire with Russia. Both sides agreed that it is time to begin a process toward lasting peace, the joint statement read. Washington committed to discussing proposals for an enduring peace that provides Ukraine's long-term security with representatives from Russia, and the Ukrainian delegation reiterated that European partners should be involved in the peace process.

His special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, is expected to meet with Vladimir Putin later this week in Russia to discuss the Russian response to the latest developments. Rubio also said he would speak to his Russian counterpart soon.

Trump has threatened heavy sanctions on Russia and its banking sector if it doesn't comply or show a willingness to end the war, which began after Moscow invaded Ukraine in 2022.

Putin has said that Ukrainian membership in NATO is a non-starter. Kyiv wants security guarantees and protection from another Russian invasion later on.

After the meeting, speaking to reporters, Rubio said Ukraine was



ready to stop shooting and start talking. "I hope they [Russia] are going to say yes. And if they do, then I think we made great progress. If they say no, then we'll unfortunately know the impediment to peace here," he said.

The joint statement also said both countries' presidents agreed to conclude a minerals deal as soon as possible to "expand Ukraine's economy and guarantee Ukraine's long-term prosperity and security." The deal, which was supposed to be signed during last month's Trump-Zelenskyy meeting, now appears imminent.

Following a verbal spat between the US president and vice president on the one hand and Zelenskyy on the other, Washington halted intel sharing and weapons assistance to Ukraine.

Al-Arabiya

Portugal's government loses confidence vote, setting stage for new election

Portugal's centre-right government has lost a confidence vote in parliament, potentially pushing the European Union (EU) country towards its third general election in three years.

The government "tried everything right up to the last minute to avoid snap elections", Portugal's centre-right prime minister, Luis Montenegro, told reporters after the vote on Tuesday evening.

Lawmakers voted 142-88, with zero abstentions, against the motion of confidence that Montenegro presented after the opposition questioned the integrity of his dealings related to a consultancy firm he founded.

Portuguese media reported allegations that the firm, which is now run by Montenegro's sons, had contracts with several private companies that rely on government contracts.

Montenegro, who had already survived two censure votes, denies any wrongdoing. "The insinuation that I mixed my business and political activity is completely abusive, and even insulting. A repeated falsehood does not become the truth, but it contaminates the political environment… this is what populism feeds on," he told parliament before the vote.



Pedro Nuno Santos, the leader of the Socialist Party, the country's largest opposition party, described the government's conduct as "shameful," saying it resorted to "manoeuvres, games, tricks" to survive.

Montenegro became prime minister after socialist Antonio Costa resigned in November 2023 under the shadow of a corruption probe. Costa, who denies accusations of influence peddling levelled against him, was elected head of the EU's European Council in June 2024. Following the vote, it is now up to Portugal's president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, whether to call a parliamentary election after he consults the main political parties on Wednesday and his advisory Council of State on Thursday. Montenegro's centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) coalition won elections in March 2024, but held just 80 seats in the country's 230-seat legislature. The Socialist Party, who had previously held government, won 78 seats.

By contrast, Portugal's hard-right Chega party gained 50 seats, more than four times the 12 seats it held previously. **Aljazeera**

Afghan migrants should...

From P3

For the first time, Afghan returnees were given a grand welcome and were even transported to their original homes in government vehicles.

Muslim countries are expected to treat Afghans well in the light of Islamic brotherhood, and other countries are expected to treat them in light of Islamic teachings and international migration standards.

Likewise, undocumented Afghan refugees who are living in other countries should either return voluntarily or obtain documents before their travel to avoid harassment and torture of the hosting countries' security officials.

Inam Hashemi

India sends 32 tons of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, UNODC

KABUL: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Kabul, said in a statement on its X-page Wednesday that India has sent 32 tons of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

To support the people of Afghanistan, the Indian government has provided humanitarian assistance, including medicine, medical equipment, winter clothes, sports equipment and other essential items which will be delivered to addiction treatment centers in the country, the office said.

Meanwhile, India has assured that its humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan will continue in various sectors, especially in the health sector.

The aid comes as Islamic Emirate Foreign Minister Mawlavi Amir Khan Muttaqi had earlier met with the Indian Foreign Minister and stressed expanding relations between the two friend countries. **The Kabul Times**

